

Applicant: G. Triantopoulos et al.
Application Serial No.: 10/654,638
Filing Date: September 4, 2003
Docket No.: 577-520 CON
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REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-9, 14-20 remain pending in the application. Claims 5, 7, and 18 have been amended without adding new matter. Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendment and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 7-9 and 14-17 are allowed by the Examiner. Claims 1, 3, 4, and 14-17 are allowed in view of the Terminal Disclaimer filed on February 11, 2005.

Claim Objections

The Examiner has objected to claims 7 and 18 due to some informalities. Claims 7 and 18 have been amended according to Examiner's suggestion. Therefore, this objection of claim 7 and 18 is obviated.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejection of Claims 5, 6 and 18-20

The Examiner has rejected claims 5, 6 and 18-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Schrader (U.S. Patent 5,103,068) in view of Park (U.S. Patent 5,936,200).

Claims 5 and 18 as amended recite a ground connector with a deformable conductive body having a pair of legs located at opposite ends of the body defining a generally U-shaped configuration with legs defining a central slot configured to receiving

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a bus bar therein. The central slot includes opposed side walls. A plurality of teeth project into the side walls of the slot for electrical connection of the bus bar and the body. The body also includes a pair of shoulders projecting outwardly from a lower end of the body. Additionally, at least one aperture is located adjacent to one of the shoulders to receive a conductor therein so that when body is deformed at the shoulders to initiate a crimp between the conductor and the body, the slot is slightly opened to receive the bus bar therein.

Schrader discloses a connector having slots or channels for insertion of cables or conductors into the connector. Additionally, a groove is provided in one or more surfaces of the connector and an elongated tying device is press-fitted into the groove. This tying device extends sufficiently enough so as to be twisted around to the ends of conductors preparatory to the crimping process.

Park shows an electrical junction box having terminals (13) for receiving wires. The terminals include an inner clamping part (33) having a plurality of teeth (39) for gripping and holding the wire.

The connector disclosed in Schrader clearly differs from the ground connector disclosed and claimed in the present invention. The Examiner relies on Figure 3 of Schrader to reject claims 5 and 18. However, the connector in Figure 3 fails to show or

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suggest a plurality of teeth on at least one of the legs projected into the side wall of the slot, as recited in amended claims 5 and 18 of the present invention.

Park also fails to show teeth projected into the side walls of the slot. This is because in Park, the slot is simply an inner clamping part (33) of the terminal (13) for receiving the wire. The inner clamping part (33) further includes teeth (39) for gripping and holding the wire as shown in Fig. 14 and Fig. 15 of Park. The inner clamping part 33 of Park is clearly not the slot with opposed side walls having teeth projected into the side walls as claimed in the present invention.

Neither of the references, Schrader nor Park, alone or in combination, teach or suggest a plurality of teeth projected into the side walls of the slot of the conductor body as claimed in the present invention. Therefore claims 5, 6 and 18-20 define patentability over the cited combination.

Moreover, Schrader and Park are not combinable in the manner suggested by the Examiner. This is because Schrader discloses an electrical connector having slots for inclusion of conductors. Park, on the other hand, discloses an electrical junction box for receiving and holding multi-conductor cables without the need for clamps, connectors, wire nuts or electrical tape (see Col. 1, lines 41-43 of Park). This is in direct contradiction to the connector in Schrader. Therefore, there can be no suggestion or motivation in Schrader to provide teeth taught by Park into one of the legs of Schrader in

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the manner proposed by the Examiner. As such it is submitted that claims 5, 6, and 18-20 are patentable over the cited combination thereof.

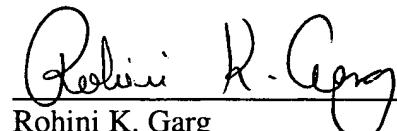
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CONCLUSION

In view of the amendment and remarks above, Applicants deems this application, including claims 1, 3-9 and 14-20, is in condition for allowance and solicits such action. In the event that any issues remain following entry of this amendment, Applicants' agent respectfully invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned agent at the telephone number given below for either a personal or telephone interview if the Examiner believes that such would expedite the prosecution of this application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional fees associated with this communication, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 08-2461. Such authorization includes authorization to charge fees for extensions of time, if any, under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 and also should be treated as a constructive petition for an extension of time in this reply or any future reply pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136.

Respectfully submitted,



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